

- (e) Does not arise.

Contract Labour System

2112. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been complaints that some of the Depots of the Food Corporation of India were left out of the notification of the Labour officials while provision were being made for the abolishment of contract labour system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action proposed to be taken to bring these depots under the purview of said notification?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM): (a) to (c) The Government analysed data in respect of 988 depots of Food Corporation of India and issued notifications for abolition of contract labour in only 172 depots that evolved for this purpose.

[Translation]

Industry Status to Tourism

2113. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded the status of Industry to tourism;

(b) if so, whether any State-wise policy has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the policy chalked out for the tourism industry in Uttar Pradesh and the extent to which it has been implemented during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) the schemes formulated for the development of this industry during 1997-98;

(e) the details of foreign investment in the tourism sector particularly in Gujarat during the last three years;

(f) whether some State Governments have sought permission to invite foreign investments in the tourism sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of proposals of Gujarat cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) 23 State Governments including Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have declared tourism as a industry and have accordingly brought out their State Tourism Policy for the development of tourism. The implementation of the Tourism

Policy is the responsibility of the State Govt., however, the Deptt. of Tourism provide Central financial assistance to State Govt. for specific projects based on their merits, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(e) to (g) The foreign investment approvals for hotel and tourism industry are given by the Reserve Bank of India and the Foreign Investment promotion Board of the Ministry of Industry. No foreign investment proposals have been approved for the State of Gujarat.

Foreign Exchange Earned by Hotels of ITDC

2114. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the various hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation during the current year till date;

(b) whether these hotels are not receiving direct business from the Commonwealth Nations directly and they are being offered huge concessions in the charges by various travel agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) During the current year (1996-97) ITDC hotels earned direct foreign exchange of Rs. 12.39 crores upto Jan 97.

(b) and (c) ITDC hotels mostly receive business from foreign countries including Commonwealth Nations through Indian tour operators as ITDC do not have its offices abroad. However, ITDC also receive some component of its foreign business directly. Discounts/concessions for such business are offered depending upon market forces volume of business, seasonality, competition etc.

[English]

Appratus by MTNL

2115. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone appratus supplied by MTNL to their subscribers become unserviceable soon;

(b) if so, the brands of telephone appratus purchased by the MTNL and how many of them became unserviceable since their purchase and after how much period;

(c) whether in the event of the appratus becoming unserviceable, the subscribers are provided a repaired appratus which also goes unserviceable thereby causing harassment to them;

(d) if so, is there any proposal to enquire into the matter of purchase of sub-standard or poor quality telephone appratus and not changing the defective appratus with a new one; and

(e) the number of letters received by the Government from the M.Ps. in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The apparatus are replaced by a new one or repaired one depending upon the condition of the instrument and availability in the store. Even the repaired instruments are checked for functional quality and only then these are sent for replacement.

(d) No, Sir. The instruments are purchased as per specifications approved by TEC, duly tested by Quality Assurance Group, Bangalore.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Over Booking of Passengers by Air India

2116. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India off-loaded about 190 passengers in the International flights in the first half of January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any norm or ceiling on over-booking and whether the ceiling has been exceeded;

(d) whether Air India propose to offer alternative schemes to the over-booked passengers well in advance like giving 50% concessions to those who postpone their journeys by a week or so;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps/measures being taken by Air India to avoid such unpleasant situation causing harassment and loss to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Air India off-loaded 433 passengers on their flights ex-India during the period 1st January to 15th January, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. Overbooking profiles are maintained for each route by Air India. However, occasionally the ceiling on over booking is exceeded to accommodate compassionate cases, commercially important cases etc.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no such proposal. However, Air India provides hotel accommodation with meals till alternative arrangements are made to put the passenger on the first available flight.

(f) Air India constantly monitors and changes overbooking profiles on the basis of experienced loads to minimise off-loadings.

[Translation]

Satellite Money Order Service

2117. SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link every State and district in the country with Satellite Money Order Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State Wise; and

(c) the names of the cities in the country which have been linked with Satellite Money Order Service, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply at (a).

(c) The Department has installed VSATs in 73 locations in the country. These 73 locations are given in the statement attached.

Statement

*List of locations where VSATs have been installed
(Status as on 30.11.1996)*

Sl. No.	Circle/State/UT	Town/Cities/District Hqs
1.	Assam	1. Silchar 2. Tezpur 3. Dibrugarh 4. Guwahati
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Vijayawada 2. Vishakhapatnam 3. Kurnool 4. Hyderabad 5. Tirupati
3.	Bihar	1. Muzaffarpur 2. Patna 3. Darbhanga 4. Gaya 5. Purnia 6. Ranchi
4.	Delhi	1. Delhi (Ashok Vihar HO) 2. New Delhi GPO
5.	Gujarat	1. Rajkot 2. Baroda 3. Surat 4. Ahmedabad